

Higher Eligibility Limits for Hydropower in MA RPS, Classes I & II.

Effective as of November 1, 2012, higher eligible capacity limits apply for Hydroelectric power generating units under the Massachusetts Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards (RPS). The limit for Hydro in RPS Class I rises from 25 to 30 MW, and the limit for RPS Class II rises from 5 to 7.5 MW.

DOER is now accepting applications under the higher limits. Although the web-based Statement of Qualification Application forms still reflect the prior limits, until DOER can arrange for the forms to be revised, the new limits apply. Thus, if the form states 25 MW, it shall mean 30 MW, and if it states 5 MW, it shall mean 7.5 MW.

Once DOER has qualified a Hydro Unit that falls within the new limit but exceeds the old limit, the NEPOOL GIS can thenceforth mint MA RPS RECs (renewable energy certificates) for that Unit only for its electricity output that occurred as of November 1, 2012, or as of the effective date of the Unit's Low Impact Hydropower Institute certification – whichever is the later of the two dates. Output before the later of those two dates cannot qualify. As always, only certificates that have not yet been minted for the Unit as of the RPS qualification date can be encoded as MA RPS RECs.

The higher capacity limits described above are mandated by Sections 15 and 16 of Chapter 209 of the Acts of 2012, An Act Relative to Competitively Priced Electricity in the Commonwealth, approved by the Massachusetts Legislature on July 31, 2012, and signed into law by Governor Patrick on August 3, 2012. Although these changes are not yet incorporated into the RPS Regulations as of November 1, 2012, by law they are in effect and will be acted upon by DOER on that date.

Any questions should be addressed to doer.rps@state.ma.us.